

What is claimed is:

1. An audio playback/recording apparatus comprising:
an audio input processing section, which receives
analog audio data, and converts said analog audio data to
5 digital audio data;

a playback/recording processing section having a
compression section which compresses said digital audio data
output from said audio input processing section and stores
said compressed digital audio data and attribution data
10 indicating a type of a compression of said compressed digital
audio data into a RAM, and an expansion section which
decompresses compressed digital audio data stored in said RAM
based on attribution data indicating a type of a compression
of said compressed digital audio data stored in said RAM;

15 an audio output processing section, which receives
decompressed digital audio data output from said
playback/recording processing section, converts said
decompressed digital audio data to analog audio data, and
outputs said analog audio data to an output apparatus;

20 an external recording circuit section, which records
compressed digital audio data stored in said RAM into an
external recording medium, and reads out compressed digital
audio data from said external recording medium, and stores
said readout data into said RAM.

25 2. An audio playback/recording apparatus according to
claim 1, further comprising a general-purpose interface
circuit section, which transfers digital audio data and
attribution data indicating a type of a compression of said
compressed digital audio data to an external apparatus

connected thereto from said external recording medium, and receives digital audio data from said external apparatus and transfers digital audio data and attribution data indicating a type of a compression of said compressed digital audio data
5 to said external recording medium.

3. An audio playback/recording apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a protection processing section for performing protection processing of said digital audio data.

10 4. An audio playback/recording apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said protection processing section comprising an encryption section which encrypts said digital audio data, a decryption section which decrypts encrypted digital audio data, an authorization data generation section,
15 which generates authorization data sent to said external apparatus connected to said general-purpose interface circuit section, and an authorization data verification section, which verifies authorization data sent from said external apparatus connected to said general-purpose
20 interface circuit section.

5. An audio playback/recording apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said protection processing section comprising an encryption section which encrypts digital audio data, a decryption section which decrypts encrypted digital
25 audio data, an authorization data writing section which writes authorization data into digital audio data transferred to said external apparatus connected to said general-purpose interface circuit section, and an authorization data extraction section which extracts authorization data from

digital audio data received from said external apparatus connected to said general-purpose interface circuit section.

6. An audio playback/recording apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said authorization data writing section writes said authorization data within a header information section of said digital audio data.